

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Plastic Bag Bans

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Meeting Date: July 23, 2012  
Department: Planning and Development  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: [Agenda Item Number]  
Staff Contact: Ethan Nelson  
Contact Telephone Number: (541) 682-5224

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#### ISSUE STATEMENT

This Council work session is a continuation of the February 27, 2012 Council discussion on banning plastic bags from retail establishments in Eugene.

#### BACKGROUND

Council discussed a proposed plastic bag ordinance advanced by Councilor Zelenka at the February 27, 2012 work session. In particular, Council deliberated the inclusion of a city mandated five-cent fee for single use paper bags (included as Attachment A). Based on council discussion at the work-session and interviews with City of Portland and City of Corvallis, city staff revised the draft ordinance to remove the five-cent fee (included as Attachment B).

To provide an opportunity for public input on the proposed ban, city staff created a project webpage: [www.eugene-or.gov/plasticbags](http://www.eugene-or.gov/plasticbags). Links to a consumer and retail survey (included at the end of Attachment C) were provided as well as the original AIS, staff report, proposed and revised ordinances, and links to plastic bag ban resource pages. Over 2,000 respondents identifying as consumers and over 80 respondents identifying as retailers took part in the survey. Attachment C: Plastic Bag Ban Survey Summary provides greater detail on the public and retailer's position on a bag ban and related issues. All comments from the consumer survey are provided in Attachment D and comments from the retailer survey are provided in Attachment E (note: the consumer attachment is 127 pages).

#### RELATED CITY POLICIES

The City of Eugene regulates licensed garbage and recycling hauling activities within the city limits. These activities are guided by Oregon Revised Statutes as well as the Eugene City Code. In particular, ORS 459a outlines the "Opportunity to Recycle" for all Oregonians and sets garbage diversion rates that county's and their municipalities should strive for. The Lane County goal is to achieve 54% diversion on an annual basis by 2009. This level was reached for the first time in 2010 (57.4%). Outside of this statewide policy, waste reduction and diversion is included as an action item within Eugene's Climate and Energy Action Plan.

#### TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE – SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The staff analysis from the February 27, 2012 work session includes a detailed discussion on the triple bottom line elements involved in a plastic bag ban. If the adopted ordinance includes a five-cent fee for single use paper bags, the city would need to develop an outreach and assistance program for disproportionately impacted populations to provide low or no cost reusable bags.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Based on Council's current interest and support for the plastic bag ban, staff has scheduled the item to be part of the September 17, 2012 Public Hearing. The hearing will be focused on eliciting public input on the proposed ban with two options. Option 1 will be an ordinance that includes a mandatory five-cent fee for single use paper bags and the accompanying regulation. Option 2 will be an ordinance that bans single use bags but does not include a five-cent fee for single use paper bags.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

Option 1: Send the proposed ordinance with both options to the September 17, 2012 Public Hearing

Option 2: Send the proposed ordinance with only one option (fee or no fee) to the September 17, 2012 Public Hearing.

Option 2: Remove the proposed ordinance from September 17, 2012 Public Hearing.

## **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends Option 1.

## **SUGGESTED MOTION**

None required at this time.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Original Ordinance (with fee)
- B. Revised Ordinance (no fee)
- C. Plastic Bag Ban Survey Summary.
- D. Consumer Survey Text Results (note: 127 pages in length).
- E. Retailer Survey Text Results.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Staff Contact: Ethan Nelson  
Telephone: (541) 682-5224  
Staff E-Mail: [ethan.a.nelson@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:ethan.a.nelson@ci.eugene.or.us)